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Title: Need to extend the time-limit for filing service tax returns from 25 days to 45 days - Laid.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (DHUBRI): Large number of small service providers providing annual service upto Rs. 15,00,000 are to file their service tax returns twice, and within 25 days from 31 March and 30 September. Most of the service providers do not have assistants to assist them and limitation of 25 days is very short. Since 2006-07 the service tax return forms have been made voluminous and large number of details are to be furnished. On the other hand, the first fortnight of April month have some national festivals like New Year, Bihu etc. while first fortnight of October have festivals like Durga Puja, Deepawali and Lakshmi puja. Since 11.5.2007 the service providers filing returns late have to bear late fine.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to extend the date of filing service tax returns from 25 days to 45 days so as to enable the small service providers to furnish their returns in proper way and within the time.